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Chief, Manufacturing Sectors Branch, D/I

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Deputy Chief, Industrial Division, ORR

Review of Project 30.2043, The Development of the Machine Building Industry in Communist China, 1949-62

1. Subject project is a comprehensive and penetrating analysis of the status and problems of the machine building industry of Communist China. As an analysis, the paper is unusually discerning and appears to be essentially sound. In my opinion it will make a valuable contribution to the community and should therefore be submitted for publication.

2. Although detailed comments and suggestions are attached, the major obstacle to publication in the present form is posed by the length of the paper. Because it is almost 300 pages long, much of its good analysis is obscured by detail. In addition, however, the material as now organized is repetitive to the extent that many of the conclusions are diffused and weakened. In my opinion a good deal of the repetition results from the separate treatment of problems under investment, production and theory of development. The elimination of duplication under these separate rubrics would tighten the organization, reduce the length, and emphasize the findings. Attention is also called to the discussion throughout the paper of such problems as growth, scale, balance, specialization, and economic factors. It is on this discussion that the merit of the paper depends in large part. At present this discussion is also too diffused and repetitive. Treatment of each of these subjects should also be consolidated so as to shorten the presentation and render it more effective.

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Attachment:

Comments on Project 30.2043

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